

The Honorable Mary Alice Theiler

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
  
LEO MYRON DICKERSON,  
  
Defendant.

NO. MJ20-253

COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS  
  
Title 18, United States Code,  
Sections 922(g)(1)

Before the Honorable Mary Alice Theiler, United States Magistrate Judge, United States Courthouse, Seattle, Washington.

The undersigned complainant, Andriy Vavilin, Special Agent, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), being duly sworn states:

**COUNT ONE**

**(Felon in Possession of a Firearm)**

On or about May 20, 2019, in Seattle and elsewhere within the Western District of Washington, LEO MYRON DICKERSON, knowing he had been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, that is:

*Unlawful Possession of a Firearm*, under cause number 18-CR-226-RSL, in United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, on or about February 22, 2019;

1 did knowingly possess a firearm, namely: a Glock 22, .40 caliber pistol, which had been  
2 shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce.

3 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1).

4 **COUNT TWO**

5 **(Felony in Possession of a Firearm)**

6 On or about February 14, 2020, in Puyallup and elsewhere within the Western  
7 District of Washington, LEO MYRON DICKERSON, knowing he had been convicted of  
8 a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, that is:

9 *Unlawful Possession of a Firearm*, under cause number 18-CR-226-RSL,  
10 in United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, on  
11 or about February 22, 2019;

12 did knowingly possess a firearm, namely: a Smith & Wesson SD40, .40 caliber pistol,  
13 which had been shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce.

14 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1).

15 **INTRODUCTION**

16 1. I, Andriy I. Vavilin, being duly sworn, depose and state, that I am a Special  
17 Agent (SA) with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF), United  
18 States Department of Justice, and have been so employed since July of 2017. I am a law  
19 enforcement officer of the United States, and am empowered by law to conduct  
20 investigations of, and to make arrests for, offenses against the United States, as codified  
21 at Title 18, United States Code, Section 3051. I have completed the Federal Law  
22 Enforcement Training Center Criminal Investigative Program and the ATF National  
23 Academy Special Agent Basic Training Program in Brunswick, Georgia. Prior to  
24 becoming an ATF Special Agent, I graduated from Rowan University and received a  
25 Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Law & Justice (Summa Cum Laude). From 2014 to 2017, I  
26 was employed as a Police Officer with the United States Capitol Police.

27 2. During my professional training and experience, I have both assisted in and  
28 conducted investigations into firearms and narcotic violations. I have also participated in

1 | undercover operations, and in the execution of search warrants at locations associated  
2 | with these individuals. During the execution of search warrants, I have participated in the  
3 | recovery of evidence related to firearms and narcotic violations. Through this experience  
4 | and training, and based upon the experience of other Special Agents which have been  
5 | relayed to me, I have become familiar with the modus operandi of narcotic dealers and  
6 | narcotic traffickers and illegal possessors of firearms and ammunition as enumerated  
7 | herein.

8 |         3. I have been involved in an investigation, which is the subject of this  
9 | Affidavit. Due to my personal participation in this investigation and reports made to me  
10 | by other Special Agents and other Law Enforcement Officers, I am familiar with the facts  
11 | and circumstances surrounding the investigation. My training and experience as a  
12 | Special Agent, including participation in this investigation, form the basis for the  
13 | opinions and conclusions set forth below.

14 |         4. Since I am submitting this affidavit for the limited purpose of establishing  
15 | probable cause, however, I have not included each fact known to me concerning this  
16 | investigation.

#### 17 | **SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION**

18 |         5. I have reviewed DICKERSON's criminal history and observed he has at  
19 | least one conviction punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, which  
20 | would federally prohibit him from possessing firearms, specifically: *Unlawful Possession*  
21 | *of a Firearm*, under cause number 18-CR-226-RSL, in United States District Court for  
22 | the Western District of Washington, dated on or about February 22, 2019.

23 |         6. When DICKERSON pleaded guilty, he acknowledged that this crime  
24 | carries a maximum penalty of up to 10 years' imprisonment.

25 |         7. DICKERSON is currently on federal supervised release in 18-CR-226-  
26 | RSL.

1           8.       DICKERSON has also previously been convicted of the following felony  
2 crime in King County Superior Court: *Unlawful Possession of a Firearm*, under cause  
3 number 18-1-00373-0, dated on or about September 21, 2018.

4                   **Leo DICKERSON's Possession of a Firearm on May 20, 2019**

5           9.       On May 20, 2019, at 12:51 a.m., Kent Police Department officers  
6 responded to a shooting at the Apex Apartments, 25011 46th Avenue South, in Kent,  
7 Washington. The shooting victim, DT, was lying on the ground covered in blood and had  
8 gunshot wounds to both his legs. DT was transported to Harborview Medical Center for  
9 medical treatment of a life-threatening arterial injury.

10          10.      At the scene, officers located 10 spent cartridge casings of 9mm caliber,  
11 which they collected and entered into evidence.

12          11.      The suspect fled from the scene in what witnesses described as a red Dodge  
13 Charger with distinct large rims. Neighbors who witnessed the incident described the  
14 suspect as a male wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt and grey sweatpants.

15          12.      Kent Police Detective Melanie Robinson was assigned this case as lead  
16 investigator. Her investigation revealed that DT had just left a woman's apartment when  
17 he was shot. The woman, KW, has been in a dating relationship with DT, and had also  
18 been involved in a relationship with a man named Hamead ABDULLAHI. KW denied  
19 that she was romantically involved with ABDULLAHI, but admitted that ABDULLAHI  
20 was interested in a romantic relationship with her and that she allowed him to give her  
21 gifts.

22          13.      KW said that she asked DT what happened after he was shot, and DT said  
23 something to the effect of "It was your boyfriend." In a 911 call immediately after the  
24 incident, the following statements were recorded:

25               DT:    I've been shot, I need help now. Need help now. Need help  
26                       now. I'm in Kent. I don't know. I'm outside. Help me.

27               KW:    Oh my God what happened.

28               DT:    Your f---ing boy did it.

1  
2 KW: Where are you hit? Oh my God, I love you [DT], I'm so sorry.  
3 Where are you hit babe? I am so sorry, I love you so much.  
4 He's hit, somebody shot him. I don't know what happened. I  
5 just heard the shots and left my house. Was it him babe? Was  
6 it him? I think it was Hamead.

7 14. One neighbor, MM, said he heard gunshots and saw a red "Malibu or  
8 Dodge" vehicle with its headlights off, backed in close to the mailboxes at the base of the  
9 hill near the entrance to the Apex Apartment complex.

10 15. Another neighbor, BW, also saw a car parked near the mailboxes at the  
11 time of the shooting. He saw a subject get into the passenger side of the car, and the  
12 subject yelled, "Let's go, let's go."

13 16. A third neighbor, ES, looked out his window after he heard gunshots. He  
14 saw a male walking eastbound to a rock wall where he jumped over to the street below  
15 (46<sup>th</sup> Avenue South). Due to the level of the road, ES lost sight of the male momentarily  
16 and then saw a red Dodge Charger leave the area, northbound, with its headlights off.

17 17. Based on information provided by KW and database searches, Kent Police  
18 learned that ABDULLAHI was the registered owner of a red 2006 Dodge Charger  
19 bearing license plate SU00234, registered at an address in Seattle. Seattle Police were  
20 advised of the shooting and asked to look for ABDULLAHI's red Dodge Charger at the  
21 vehicle's registered address.

22 **Vehicle Stop of DORSEY, DICKERSON, and ABDULLAHI**

23 18. At 2:48 a.m. on May 20, 2019, approximately two hours after the shooting,  
24 Seattle Police stopped ABDULLAHI's red Dodge Charger near his residence in Seattle.  
25 The driver was Devaughn DORSEY. Hamead ABDULLAHI was sitting in the front  
26 passenger seat. Leo DICKERSON was sitting in the rear passenger seat on the right side.

27 19. At the time of this incident, ABDULLAHI, DICKERSON, and DORSEY  
28 each had a federal felony conviction for a firearm-related offense, and each was on  
federal supervised release.

1           20.     Kent Police Detectives Galetti and Steffes responded to the scene and  
2 interviewed DORSEY. After being advised of his *Miranda* rights, DORSEY told  
3 detectives that that he was picked up by his friends, whose names he refused to provide,  
4 at some “restaurant” in Burien. He did not give a specific time but stated he and his  
5 friends were only together for a maximum of two hours prior to being pulled over by  
6 Seattle Police. He said his friend had been driving the Charger but that he began driving  
7 because he had a license and the others had been drinking.

8           21.     DORSEY said at some point they drove to the QFC on Capitol Hill to pick  
9 up a bottle of Courvoisier liquor. He said that he was not in Kent today and had no idea  
10 why police pulled them over. DORSEY said there was no suspicious conversation in the  
11 vehicle and all they were doing was driving around “looking for females.”

12           22.     Detectives also advised DICKERSON of his *Miranda* rights and  
13 interviewed him at the scene. DICKERSON told detectives that DORSEY was his friend  
14 and the two had been hanging out together at DORSEY’s girlfriend’s house in Burien  
15 since Friday (May 17, 2019). DICKERSON said that ABDULLAHI came to the Burien  
16 house around 1:00 a.m. DICKERSON claimed that he had not met ABDULLAHI before  
17 this evening. DICKERSON said DORSEY came to him and said, “Come on bro, I’m  
18 trying to leave.” Since the two had been in the Burien house since Friday, DICKERSON  
19 welcomed the opportunity to leave the residence and “get some fresh air.”

20           23.     DICKERSON stated that he got in the backseat of ABDULLAHI’s Dodge  
21 Charger. He said that ABDULLAHI was driving and DORSEY was sitting in the front  
22 passenger seat. DICKERSON claimed that he did not know where they were going or  
23 what they were doing. He said that DORSEY took over driving because he had a valid  
24 license and ABDULLAHI did not.

25 **Firearms Recovered from the Vehicle**

26           24.     Detectives served a search warrant on ABDULLAHI’s Dodge Charger and  
27 located a black backpack in the backseat, next to where DICKERSON had been sitting:  
28



25. The backpack contained three firearms:

- One Glock 22 .40 caliber pistol;
- One Springfield XD 9mm caliber pistol; and
- One Walther PPQ 9mm caliber pistol.

26. The firearms were analyzed for latent prints, and no prints of comparison value were recovered.

27. The firearms were analyzed for DNA by the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory. A DNA profile extracted from the Glock 22 .40 caliber pistol was a match to a DNA profile of Leo DICKERSON.<sup>1</sup> DORSEY and ABDULLAHI were excluded as contributors to the DNA profile. The DNA samples from the Springfield XD 9mm

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<sup>1</sup> Specifically, the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory report stated: "Assuming four contributors, it is 640 octillion times more likely to observe this DNA profile if it originated from Leo Dickerson and three unknown contributors rather than four unrelated individuals selected at random from the U.S. population."



1 caliber pistol and the Walther PPQ 9mm caliber pistol each contained a complex DNA  
2 profile originating from at least five individuals, and neither of these profiles was suitable  
3 for comparison.

4 28. Spent cartridge casings from the shooting at the Apex Apartments were  
5 compared to spent cartridge casings from a test-firing of the Walther PPQ 9mm caliber  
6 pistol, using the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN).<sup>2</sup> Through  
7 this comparison, a trained Washington State Patrol Crime Lab Firearms Unit examiner  
8 sent a preliminary lead notification indicating that the unique markings on the spent 9mm  
9 caliber cartridge casings from the Apex Apartments were consistent with the spent  
10 cartridge casings fired from the Walther PPQ 9mm caliber pistol recovered from  
11 ABDULLAHI's car.

12 29. On July 19, 2019, United States District Judge Robert S. Lasnik sentenced  
13 DICKERSON to 9 months in custody for violating supervised release by associating with  
14 DORSEY. On August 1, 2019, United States District Judge James L. Robart sentenced  
15 DORSEY to 9 months in custody for violating supervised release by associating with  
16 DICKERSON.

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21 <sup>2</sup> Through training, research, and experience, I am aware that when a gun is made, the manufacturing  
22 equipment etches microscopic markings onto the gun's metal parts. These markings, called tool marks, are  
23 transferred to a bullet or cartridge case when the gun is fired. These unique marks allow forensic firearm examiners  
to determine, among other things, whether a particular fired cartridge case was fired from a specific gun or whether  
different fired cartridge cases were fired from the same gun.

24 I am also aware that ATF maintains a database of digital images of spent bullets and cartridge cases that  
25 were found at crime scenes or test-fired from confiscated weapons. This database is called the National Integrated  
26 Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN). ATF manages the system and provides the equipment to crime labs around  
the country. An entry technician uses ballistic imaging to convert the spent rounds into two- or three-dimensional  
27 digital images that are uploaded into NIBIN. NIBIN can be searched for possible matches — that is, other rounds  
that have similar tool marks and thus may have been fired from the same gun. After a possible match, or "hit" is  
28 identified, the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab Firearms Unit sends a presumptive investigative lead notification  
to the case investigators. This lead can later be confirmed by microscopic comparison by a forensic firearms  
examiner.



1        30.     DICKERSON finished serving his supervised release sentence on  
2 **February 20, 2020**; however, the Bureau of Prisons permitted him to serve a portion of  
3 his sentence on home confinement.

4                    **Leo DICKERSON'S Possession of a Firearm on February 14, 2020**

5        31.     On February 14, 2020, members of the South Sound Gang Task Force  
6 (SSGTF) and Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) conducted an arrest  
7 and search warrant execution at 3939 10<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Apartment E3, Puyallup,  
8 Washington. The apartment was the residence of Deshawn WEST, a multi-convicted  
9 felon and a documented gang member. WEST was being arrested by the DOC for  
10 violating conditions of release. SSGTF had a Pierce County Superior Court search  
11 warrant for the residence to locate firearms and related evidence.

12        32.     At approximately 3:45 p.m., a gray-colored Honda sedan bearing  
13 Washington license plate, BSM 7108, pulled in front WEST's residence. Agents  
14 observed three males in the vehicle: an unknown middle-aged male driver with a light  
15 complexion; Deshawn WEST, who was riding in the rear passenger seat; and another  
16 black male passenger, later identified as Leo DICKERSON.

17        33.     WEST and DICKERSON exited the vehicle in front of WEST's apartment,  
18 E3. The vehicle drove to the south of the parking lot and eventually exited the lot. WEST  
19 appeared to have a plastic bottle containing liquid in his hand. DICKERSON exited the  
20 vehicle carrying a black bag by the straps. The bag appeared to have something of  
21 significant weight inside. WEST and DICKERSON walked up the stairs and lingered on  
22 the front porch until someone opened the door. The front door opened and both WEST  
23 and DICKERSON entered the residence.

24        34.     A short time later, WEST stepped out of his front door onto the porch  
25 shared with neighboring apartment. WEST quickly stepped inside his apartment and  
26 closed the front door after seeing his assigned DOC Officer approaching. After several  
27 seconds, WEST re-emerged from the front door, walked down the exterior stairs, and was  
28 taken into custody without incident.

1        35. After WEST was arrested by DOC, other occupants were called out of the  
2 apartment: DICKERSON, an adult female who was identified as Tekeyta Hyland, and a  
3 juvenile female who was identified as WEST's daughter.

4        36. DICKERSON was advised he was not under arrest, and after agreeing to be  
5 interviewed, he provided the following information:

- 6            • DICKERSON stated he had been friend with Deshawn WEST for many  
7 years and they were "like family."
- 8            • DICKERSON was on federal supervised release after recently being  
9 released from federal prison on a firearm charge, and he and WEST had  
10 been hanging out a lot.
- 11           • DICKERSON lived in Kent somewhere, but could not remember the  
12 address because he had just moved into the residence.
- 13           • DICKERSON stated he received special permission from his probation  
14 officer to hang out with WEST, whom he knew to have felony convictions,  
15 because the two were basically family.
- 16           • DICKERSON had not observed WEST with any firearms, narcotics, or  
17 other illegal contraband.
- 18           • DICKERSON had been in WEST's apartment many times recently, and  
19 had never observed any firearms, narcotics, or other illegal contraband.
- 20           • DICKERSON stated he had not possessed any firearms, narcotics, or other  
21 illegal contraband since being released from prison.

22        37. DICKERSON was released on scene and departed in a black Honda CRV,  
23 bearing Washington license plate, AUX9021, which was driven by Amber Marie  
24 JACKSON. Prior to DICKERSON entering the vehicle, JACKSON consented to a search  
25 by law enforcement. No illegal contraband was observed.

26        38. As noted above, at the time of this incident, DICKERSON was still serving  
27 his sentence for the prior supervised release violation, on home confinement. According  
28

1 to Bureau of Prisons records, he finished serving that sentence on February 20, 2020,  
2 approximately one week after this incident.

3 39. Further investigation determined that DICKERSON had not been  
4 authorized to associate with WEST or leave his approved residence to stay at WEST's  
5 apartment in Puyallup.

6 **Search Warrant of WEST's residence**

7 40. After WEST's arrest, SSGTF executed a search warrant of his residence.  
8 Seized from WEST's apartment pursuant to the warrant were the following items.

9 41. Investigators located a black MCM backpack on the floor next to a couch,  
10 between the kitchen and the living room. Inside the backpack, they located a Smith &  
11 Wesson SD40, .40 caliber pistol, loaded with one round in the chamber and 11 rounds in  
12 the appropriately seized and inserted magazine. Additionally, white pants, size 46x30,  
13 and a red shirt, size multiple XL, were located in the main compartment of the black  
14 MCM backpack.

15 42. A loaded Glock 20, 10mm caliber pistol was located in the laundry room  
16 and appeared to have been hidden in a corner next to the dryer, behind a stack of multiple  
17 items.<sup>3</sup>

18 43. A black extended Glock, .40 caliber magazine was located inside a drawer  
19 in WEST'S bedroom, and a box containing 28 rounds of .40 caliber ammunition was  
20 located inside a desk in the living room.

21 44. As described above, when DICKERSON arrived at WEST's apartment  
22 shortly before the search warrant was executed, investigators observed DICKERSON  
23 carrying a black bag by the straps which appeared to have something of significant  
24 weight inside it.

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27  
28 <sup>3</sup> WEST has been charged by Complaint with unlawfully possessing this Glock 10mm caliber firearm on February 14, 2020, and with unlawfully possessing a different firearm in September and October 2019. *See United States v. Deshawn West*, MJ20-5073-TLF.

46. ATF Special Agent David Roberts reviewed photographs of the Glock 22, .40 caliber pistol, the Springfield XD, 9mm caliber pistol; and the Walther PPQ, 9mm caliber pistol recovered from ABDULLAHI's vehicle on May 20, 2019. SA Roberts has additional training and is considered an expert in determining the location of a firearm's manufacture. SA Roberts determined that none of the three firearms was manufactured in the State of Washington. Therefore, each firearm must have traveled in interstate commerce in order to arrive in the State of Washington.

47. ATF Special Agent Brian Arnold reviewed photographs of the Smith & Wesson SD40, .40 caliber pistol and Glock 20, 10mm caliber pistol recovered from WEST's residence on February 14, 2020. SA Arnold has additional training and is considered an expert in determining the location of a firearm's manufacture. SA Arnold determined that neither of the aforementioned firearms was manufactured in the State of Washington. Therefore, each firearm must have traveled in interstate commerce in order to arrive in the State of Washington.

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**CONCLUSION**

48. Based on the foregoing, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause to believe that DICKERSON, committed the foregoing offenses of Felon in Possession of a Firearm, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1).

  
Digitally signed by ANDRIY VAVILIN  
Date: 2020.05.17 17:58:14 -07'00'

ANDRIY VAVILIN, AFFIANT  
Special Agent, ATF

The above-named agent provided a sworn statement attesting to the truth of the contents of the forgoing affidavit on the 18th day of May 2020. The Court hereby finds that there is probable cause to believe the defendant committed the offense set forth in the Complaint.

  
HON. MARY ALICE THEILER  
United States Magistrate Judge